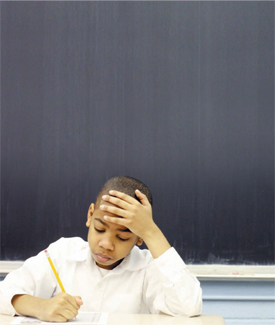
**03 The Federal System**

Print It and Get Going

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[Print](http://thethinkspot.com/system/pdf/ThinkSpot-american-gov-2010-chapter03.pdf)

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) substantially increases the role of the federal government in public education.

**Federalism and Public Policy**

**Agenda Building**

* Each level of government has its own policy agenda and procedures for policy adoption. Individuals and groups seeking to influence the official policy agenda may lobby Congress or an executive agency at the national level, a state legislature, or a unit of local government.
* State and local governments have adopted legislation to address some policy issues because the federal government has failed to act. Frustrated with a lack of federal action on illegal immigration, many states have adopted measures designed to address the issue.

**Policy Formulation and Adoption**

* The federal system affects policy formulation. To a degree, each state is a policy laboratory, and both the federal government and other states draw from the experiences of particular states in formulating their own policies. For example, policymakers across the nation are closely watching the implementation of a healthcare program in Massachusetts aimed at providing universal health insurance coverage. If the Massachusetts plan proves successful, it could be the basis of a national program.
* The federal system influences policy adoption. Most policy issues in the United States are addressed by policies adopted by more than one unit and level of government. The national government, state governments, and local governments all adopt policies concerning issues such as education, healthcare, the environment, resource development, and law enforcement.
* The national government affects state and local policy adoption through mandates, which require states and localities to take certain actions. The Clean Air Act requires state and local governments to adopt regulations designed to decrease air pollution.
* The federal government prevents state and local governments from making policy in some policy areas. States may not regulate airlines, bus and trucking companies, mutual funds, or the telecommunications industry.

**Policy Implementation and Evaluation**

* Federalism affects policy implementation. Many of the policies adopted by the national government require implementation by state and local officials, including federal policies dealing with welfare, transportation, environmental protection, and healthcare.
* Finally, the federal system influences policy evaluation. Public officials at all levels of government evaluate policy and give feedback. Congress uses feedback from evaluation reports to redesign federal programs.

**Key Terms**

**Appropriations Process**

the procedure through which Congress legislatively allocates money for a particular purpose

**Authorization Process**

the procedure through which Congress legislatively establishes and defines a program, but does not actually provide funding for it

**Block Grant Program**

a federal grant program that provides money for a program in a broad, general policy area

**Categorical Grant Program**

a federal grant program that provides funds to state and local governments for a fairly narrow, specific purpose

**Delegated Or Enumerated Powers**

the powers explicitly granted to the national government by the Constitution

**Executive Power**

the power to enforce laws

**Extradition**

the return from one state to another of a person accused of a crime

**Federal Grant Program**

a program through which the national government gives money to state and local governments to spend in accordance with set standards and conditions

**Federal Preemption of State Authority**

an act of Congress adopting regulatory policies that overrule state policies in a particular regulatory area

**Federal System**

a political system that divides power between a central government, with authority over the whole nation, and a series of state governments

**Formula Grant Program**

a grant program that awards funding on the basis of a formula established by Congress

**Full Faith And Credit Clause**

the constitutional provision requiring that states recognize the official acts of other states, such as marriages, divorces, adoptions, court orders, and other legal decisions

**Implied Powers**

those powers of Congress not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution, but derived by implication from the delegated powers

**Judicial Power**

the power to interpret laws

**Legislative Power**

the power to make laws

**Matching Funds Requirement**

the legislative provision that the national government will provide grant money for a particular activity only on the condition that the state or local government involved supplies a certain percentage of the total money required for the project or program

**Medicaid**

a federal program designed to provide health insurance to low income persons, people with disabilities, and elderly people who are impoverished

**National Supremacy Clause**

the constitutional provision that declares that the Constitution and laws of the United States take precedence over the constitutions and laws of the states

**Necessary And Proper Clause/Elastic Clause**

the Constitutional provision found in Article I, Section 8 that declares that [Congress shall have the power] to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or office thereof. It is the basis for much of the legislation passed by Congress because it gives Congress the means to exercise its delegated authority.

**New Deal**

a legislative package of reform measures proposed by President Franklin Roosevelt for dealing with the Great Depression

**Power of The Purse**

the control of the finances of government

**Privileges And Immunities Clause**

the constitutional provision prohibiting state governments from discriminating against the citizens of other states

**Project Grant Program**

a grant program that requires state and local governments to compete for available federal money

**Republic**

a representative democracy in which citizens elect representatives to make policy decisions on their behalf

**Reserved/Residual Powers**

the powers of government left to the states

**States' Rights**

an interpretation of the Constitution that favors limiting the authority of the federal government while expanding the powers of the states

**Discussion Questions**

1. What are the delegated powers? What are implied powers? Give several examples.

2. According to the Constitution, which level of government takes preeminence, the national level or the state level?

3. Compare and contrast the arguments presented by the advocates of states’ rights and the supporters of a strong national government.

4. What is the significance of McCulloch v. Maryland?

5. What are some of the conditions attached to the receipt of federal funds?

**Interactive Activity**

**Timeline: Federalism and the Supreme Court**

The tensions built into the United States system of federalism have manifested themselves in a constant struggle for power between the national government and the states. Often, the U.S. Supreme Court has been called upon to resolve disputes over federalism. In this timeline activity, you will explore some of the well-known Supreme Court decisions addressing the national-state balance of power. How has the balance of power between the states and the national government changed since 1787? What specific events and issues have played a role in altering this balance of power?

[View Timeline](http://www.ablongman.com/cmsredirects/long_mypoliscilab_2009/time.federalismandsupremecourt.html)

**“Talking About American Government” Podcasts**

Author Neal Tannahill discusses the most important concepts in this chapter

* [Education Policy in the Obama Administration](http://pearsonpodcasting.pearsoncmg.com/podcast/mypoliscilabpodcasts/think-american-government-neal-tannahill/education-policy-obama-adminis)
* [No Child Left Behind](http://abavtooldev.pearsoncmg.com/VPStreaming/audio.php?clipID=ab_amgov_think_tennahill/ch03_nclb.mp3)
* [Separation of Powers](http://abavtooldev.pearsoncmg.com/VPStreaming/audio.php?clipID=ab_amgov_think_tennahill/ch03_separation_powers.mp3)
* [Federalism](http://abavtooldev.pearsoncmg.com/VPStreaming/audio.php?clipID=ab_amgov_think_tennahill/ch03_fiscal_federalism.mp3)
* [States](http://abavtooldev.pearsoncmg.com/VPStreaming/audio.php?clipID=ab_amgov_think_tennahill/ch03_states.mp3)
* [Delegated Powers](http://abavtooldev.pearsoncmg.com/VPStreaming/audio.php?clipID=ab_amgov_think_tennahill/ch03_delegated_powers.mp3)
* [Implied Powers](http://abavtooldev.pearsoncmg.com/VPStreaming/audio.php?clipID=ab_amgov_think_tennahill/ch03_implied_powers.mp3)
* [Federal Grants and Money](http://abavtooldev.pearsoncmg.com/VPStreaming/audio.php?clipID=ab_amgov_think_tennahill/ch03_federalism.mp3)
* [SCHIP](http://abavtooldev.pearsoncmg.com/VPStreaming/audio.php?clipID=ab_amgov_think_tennahill/ch03_schip.mp3)